

**Consumer
Reports**

How to Clean Practically Anything

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for all around the house

PLUS Super stain-removal guide

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A Special Publication from Consumer Reports

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The cleaning and stain-removal methods in this book are based on texts in Consumer Reports magazine and other sources that we believe to be reliable. Although every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of cleaning methods, Consumers Union cannot—and does not—accept any legal responsibility for their application.

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be hand-washed carefully in cold water with a mild wool-washing product. Wools that can be machine-washed should be cleaned on a gentle cycle.

Turn a washable wool garment—one that does not contain mohair or angora—inside out before hand washing. Wash carefully in cold water with a mild wool-washing product. Do not wring wool items. Instead, lay hand-washed garments on a dry towel and then roll up the towel to remove excess moisture. Unroll the towel, remove the garment, and lay it flat to dry on a new towel so it will retain its shape.

Machine-washed garments should also be dried flat. They should be placed in a dryer only if the care label permits machine drying. However, you might want to forgo machine drying altogether. In CONSUMER REPORTS tests, machine drying damaged some sweaters made of machine-washable wool.

Don't press wool with a dry iron—use the wool/steam setting. To avoid an undesirable shine, iron the garment inside out or use a pressing cloth. (See General rules for ironing, page 235.)

Hand washing

Make sure that the bowl, bucket, or tub you're using is large enough to accommodate the clothing without having to jam it in. Fill it with water and make sure the washing product is completely dissolved. (To help you choose the right washing product, see Detergents for Hand-Washables, page 178.)

Lingerie, silk blouses, pantyhose. To gently agitate the items, bring the clothing to the surface, then drop it back into the water several times. Gently knead with your hands to help remove the dirt unless the care label advises against wringing or twisting. Rinse thoroughly until there is no sign of detergent. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of white vinegar to the final rinse to remove any residue.

Drip-dry if possible or roll up in a clean, dry towel to remove



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